



## PASTOR'S POINT OF VIEW



Michael P. Rucker

### WHY SHOULD WE GO TO WORSHIP?

Yes, even as a pastor there are those Sunday mornings when the bed feels so warm and cozy, the weather outside is frightful, a long, slow breakfast with Heather, and a morning in my favorite chair reading the newspaper or a good book is very tempting. And I get paid to show up on Sunday mornings! I do understand the internal back and forth many of us have running through our heads on some Sunday mornings.

The truth we are learning to live with is this: church going is not valued much anymore. Our society has become increasingly secular. The days of,

“it’s Sunday morning, of course we go to church!” are over. Many people, even former regular church goers, wonder – why bother? Do I really need to go to worship this week – again? When it comes right down to it it feels like worship is irrelevant or, at best, a quaint and dated spiritual discipline. So, why bother? A few thoughts come to mind:

- ◆ We are healthier people when we experience actual face to face time. In an internet fused world of chat rooms, blogs, and Facebook messages, to look someone in the eye, smile, give a sincere handshake, and say “peace be with you!” really does matter. It touches us at a level the virtual world cannot match. It is far too easy to isolate ourselves and then feel alienated from everyone. Don’t do it. You will be embraced as much or as little as you want to be during a worship here at FPCE.
- ◆ Our national life has entered a stage that is causing people to become anxious, uncertain, fearful, angry, and resentful. I am sure we will not settle all the issues we confront on Sundays. We won’t even try.

## Worship Schedule for July and August

### July 15

I am still thinking about the meaning of our Independence Day celebration. When it came to the issue of slavery, Paul was definitely ahead of his time. See his Letter to Philemon for details.

### July 22

A Christmas in July worship celebration!

### July 29

Nearly everyone, Christians and non-Christians, have heard about Jesus transforming a snack for two into a meal for 5000 plus and about the time he walked on water. See John 6: 1-21. These stories are more than mere miracles. Don’t you think?

### August 5

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper and read the conversation Jesus had with the Jews when he outraged all of them by saying, “*I am the bread of life...*” We underestimate what a revolutionary claim that is. See John 6: 24-35

### August 12

How are we Christians supposed to behave anyway? Do our lives look different from others? The Apostle Paul has a strong opinion on this matter. See Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2.

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News from the Edge is the monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. If you have information you would like to include in the next issue, email Judy Mysels at office@fpcedgewood.org by the 15th of the prior month. Sponsorship is available for \$40 per month.

### Point of View (cont'd.)

But during our time together, our differences are swallowed up in the love of a God who is much greater than we are. A God who is even greater than the challenges our nation faces.

- ◆ These are stressful times for families of all shapes and sizes. Whether we have a strong, intact, nuclear family, are divorced, over-extended, discovering how to be a blended family, or single – we need other families to be a network of support for ours. During the worship hour we learn to trust one another as one big, supportive family with a wise, patient, gracious, and merciful Parent.
- ◆ Paul Otori shared something with me this past week that has the ring of truth to it. What makes a live musical performance special? Answer: the fact that it is live. There is an irreplaceable relationship between performer and audience. The live relationship enlivens all. Together, audience and performer give witness to the power of the music or drama that is being performed. Going to worship is a way for us to give witness to God's presence among us in the person of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Finally, the philosopher Soren Kierkegaard says that worship is the most dramatic event we human beings will ever experience. We are the performers – all of us. God is the audience. God is honored and glorified by us! Worship is our once a week to find unity by giving thanks to the One in whom we live and move and have our being. Worship is worth it!

See you in church!

*Pastor Michael*

### Worship Schedule (cont'd.)

#### August 19

An Emerging Worship service. Read Jonah 1 and 2 then ask yourself two questions: "When have I been my own worst enemy?" and "Did my faith help me?"

#### August 26

The story of Jonah in the belly of a great fish is well-known. But later Jonah finds himself swallowed by a different kind of monster. I believe this one is harder for God to defeat. See Jonah 3 and 4 for the rest of the story.

#### September 2

This is the last summer Sunday. The final time we begin worship at 10:00. Join us for Holy Communion where we are fed and strengthened to become lights of the world and the salt of the earth. Plus a word or two on "rest."



### Community Dinners

**August 11, Sept. 5**

**6-8PM, Side Lawn**

In August, the main menu will consist of pierogies and brats. We would appreciate any side dishes and dessert donations. Watch for bulletin inserts for the donations as well as volunteer times for set-up and break-down.

Please join us to have fun with our church family and the community.

### Community Day in Edgewood

**Saturday, August 25, 12Noon to ?**

It's that time of year again when FPCE is looking for volunteers to help run a booth for **Edgewood's Community Day, August 25**. We will be running the duck/alligator pond, where 2 people are needed to "man" the booths for an hour. Usually the booth is located by the field house. We will have church brochures to spread the news about FPCE, interact with the children/parents, etc. We are looking for 2 people per hour. Look for upcoming bulletin inserts/blurbs for sign-ups or call the Church Office at 412/241-4613 if interested.



### Session Notes

- Session has chosen Wilkinsburg Community Ministry as FPCE's mission project for this year. Currently 8 members of our congregation are helping to serve the summer lunch provided by WCM. As part of this mission work, the congregation will be asked to make a monthly donation to the WCM food pantry. The month of June, members were asked to donate shampoo.
- Members of Session are assembling a "grilling basket" to be raffled as the CC Mellor Library celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the opening of their Forest Hills branch on July 17.
- Use of the Gathering Place by the Horner family on August 25 and use of the Sanctuary by the Edgewood Symphony on December 1 were approved by Session.

### OF SPECIAL NOTE!!

Sunny's husband, Dr. Tetsuro (Ted) Sakai, was recently awarded the Dr. Peter M. Winter Award for Excellence in Teaching Medical Students at UPMC!!

### F.R.O.G.S. (friends, reading and other great stuff)

The Fall Session of the FROGS program will be starting up again on Tuesday, Sept. 4. We are currently looking for a few more tadpoles to complete our army of FROGS. If you would like additional information about our program, please call 412/241-4613 or email: [FROGS@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:FROGS@fpcedgewood.org).

### Visions of God Banner

Request for information on the FPCE Visions of God banner. A few years ago families and individuals at FPCE created blocks that were sewed together to form the banner that has hung periodically at the front of the sanctuary and currently hangs in the Gathering Place. The theme for creating the banner was 'Visions of God' and each block represents the makers' unique visions. Since new members have joined FPCE some have asked me what the blocks on the banner represent. I know the meaning of many, but not all, of the blocks. It occurs to me that I should record the meaning of each block so the visions represented are not lost. If you or your family created a block please drop an email to me at [a2zebra@earthlink.net](mailto:a2zebra@earthlink.net) with a brief, 1 or 2 lines, explaining how your block represents your 'Vision of God.' Those lines will be recorded on the back of the banner. Also, please tell me if you want your name on the block or prefer to be anonymous. Thanks for your help on this. *Lorraine*

### Renovation Building Fund

The Building Renovation Fund was approved by Session in 2017 to help fund the church building renovations of which the HVAC upgrade is in progress. It is a three year fund and there were 27 donors that pledged support. The pledges for each year were as follows:  
2017 - \$40,910    2018 - \$19,950    2019 - \$17,950  
The total pledged is \$78,810 and to date the cash receipts total is \$50,233.33. We are in year 2 and everyone is reminded to meet your pledge for 2018. New pledges are also welcome for 2018 and 2019. Thank you to everyone that has participated in this important fundraiser.



## FPCE HVAC Renovation

The 4th of July week was used to install the ducts and furnaces in the 2nd floor daycare area to take advantage of daycare's vacation week. Because many children are there during weekdays it presented a problem of safely completing the work during the week. Most of the installation was completed so there will be less disruption of the daycare activities.

All of the ductless systems are installed and the heat pumps can be seen on the exterior rear and sides of the church. The Gathering Place ductless systems received temporary wiring so it can be used in summer church services and performed well on Sunday July 1. The ductless systems are very efficient and provide heating and cooling. The heat pump can provide heat down to -22 degrees F.

In addition to the furnace and ductless installation is the plumbing for the gas furnaces, and electric service for each furnace, a/c condenser and heat pump. The electrical installation requires we upgrade the single phase and three phase service and provide individual feeds to each unit. The electrical room also must be up to code, so the 50+ year old main switches will be replaced.

After the daycare area is complete, installation will start for the Sanctuary furnaces and a/c condensers.

*Tom Ochs 7/4/2018*



## Music Ministry

Happy summer to all. What a blessing it is to be able to relax and recharge over the summer. Family vacations, trips to the pool, gardening, picnics, and more. Thanks to Jim and Lisa Segedy for opening their home to us for a celebration of another year in music ministry together. Great food and great company!

Some of you have seen this on my Facebook post from several weeks ago, but I thought it was worth reposting as a testament to the power of music, even when the "ministry" part isn't intended. It's my hope that what we do in our music ministry at FPCE touches you in ways like this:

From June 18, 2018

My North Hills Singers perform extensively in the community for the holidays. One of our regular gigs is the second Saturday for the senior group at Faith Lutheran in Laurel Gardens. I think it was my second year at the high school that we sang the Austrian carol "Still, Still, Still," Norman Luboff arrangement.

After our performance was over, this lovely elderly woman named Virginia pulled me aside and asked what the song was. She recognized that it was a standard and the harmonies just touched her. She said "now I don't have a lick of musical talent, but what I do have is a great appreciation for Music and that just touched my soul and made my holiday."

Every year since, she's asked for us to perform it again, even saying she'd love if we could make a recording of it. Of course life would get busy and I'd forget about it. And every year after, Virginia and I would have the same conversation.

Well, this year I figured it had been long enough (5 years) that we could bring it back. I told the kids about Virginia and to watch her reaction when we performed. Before we sang it, I said that I had her specifically in mind when I added it to our program this year. She was beaming.

After this December's performance, I spent an extended time talking with Virginia. I was squatting down so I could be more eye level with her in her chair, wearing the Christmas sweater she wore to the party every year. She grabbed my hands and talked for a solid 10 minutes about how much this all meant to her, recounting her lack of musical ability, saying how much joy she felt seeing these smiling youth.

Something felt different about this chat, and I vividly recall walking over to put away the keyboard with one of the boys, wiping my eyes and saying "I think she just said goodbye to me."

In January, the woman who invites us back each year sent me a note attached to their church newsletter, where they had written about the program and how meaningful the day was specifically for Virginia. They even reprinted the words of the song in the newsletter. I shared it with the Singers, telling them how important what we do at the holidays for these seniors is to them.

Today I got word that Virginia passed away this weekend. She was in her 90s and lived by herself in her home until she got sick a week ago. Edna Mae called the school to ask the secretary to let me know personally because she knew how much our music mattered to Virginia.

Music touches people in ways we can never know. I'm honored and blessed to have been able to make a difference in this special woman's life through the power of song. Rest In Peace, Virginia.

*Shaun Cloonan*, Minister of Music

# JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 Worship	2  7:00 Scouts	3  7:00 AA (SR)	4  OFFICE CLOSED	5	6  8:00 AA (SR)	7  8:30 AA (SR)
8 10:00 Worship	9  7:00 Scouts	10  7:00 Session Mtg. 7:00 AA (SR)	11  <b>6-8:00 Community Dinner</b>	12  1:00 Daytime Circle	13  8:00 AA (SR)	14 9:30-12 WCM Bd. Mtg  8:30 AA (SR)
15 10:00 Worship	16  7:00 Scouts	17  7:00 AA (SR)	18	19	20  8:00 AA (SR)	21  8:30 AA (SR)
After worship we will be welcoming back Connie Black and celebrating her 80th birthday! Everyone come and celebrate with this great lady!						
22 10:00 Worship	23  7:00 Scouts	24  7:00 AA (SR)	25	26	27  8:00 AA (SR)	28  8:30 AA (SR)
29 10:00 Worship 1:00 Eagle Scout Ceremony/Recept.	30 7:00 Scouts 7:00 Joy Circle	31 7:00 AA (SR)				



First Presbyterian Church of  
**EDGEWOOD**  
*The Community Church*

120 E. Swissvale Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15218

# AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  6-8:00 Community Dinner	2	3  8:00 AA (SR)	4  8:30 AA (SR)
5  10:00 Worship	6  7:00 Scouts	7  7:00 Session Mtg 7:00 AA (SR)	8	9  1:00 Daytime Circle	10  8:00 AA (SR)	11  8:30 AA (SR)
12  10:00 Worship  12:00 ESO Rehearsal	13  7:00 Scouts	14  7:00 AA (SR)	15	16	17  8:00 AA (SR)	18  8:30 AA (SR)
19  10:00 Worship	20  7:00 Scouts	21  7:00 AA (SR)	22	23	24  8:00 AA (SR)	25 12:00 Edgewood Community Day  1-4 Horner Party (GP)  8:30 AA (SR)
26  10:00 Worship	27  7:00 Joy Circle 7:00 Scouts	28  7:00 AA (SR)	29	30	31  8:00 AA (SR)	